

Winterport Business Association Meeting
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine
Wednesday, April 14, 2010

1. Convene Meeting / Mission Statement
2. Introductions of People Attending Meeting
3. Accept Minutes of Last Meeting
Of Wednesday, March 10, 2010
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
 - a. Recap of Winterport's 150th Celebration
 - b. Winterport's Summer Birthday Celebration / Committees Needed
Vote to Allow Proceeds to be Used for Fireworks
 - c. 33 Star Flags for Sale
 - d. Nominating Committee for Executive Committee
 - e. Any Interest for a Speaker About New Tax Laws
6. Old Business
7. Open Table – "Idea Exchange"
8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The Winterport Area Business Association
Wednesday, April 14, 2010
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and the association's Mission Statement was read.

Introductions of those members in attendance were conducted:

Bernie Littlefield, Bel Portraits - President
Laurel Coulter, The Clothesline
Ann Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House – Secretary
Joe Brooks, Winterport Town Council
Darrah Wagner, Resident
Valerie Haskins, Shaklee
Debbie Peet, Molly's
Deb Newman, Maine Bytes – Vice President

The meeting minutes of Wednesday, March 10, 2010 was voted on and approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was read. The beginning balance in March was \$768.54, there was no income received, and the only expense was for birthday celebration flag poles of \$18.86 leaving a balance of \$749.68. In April there was income of \$270.00 from the sale of the 33 star flags, and an expense to purchase more flags of \$173.77. There was also an expense of \$60.00 for the purchase of the birthday cake for the town celebration. This was the only expense from the birthday celebration as all other costs were absorbed by others even though \$290.00 was originally approved to spend. (Note: This report reflects a more detailed account than what was originally stated at the meeting.)

A recap of Winterport's 150th birthday celebration was given. It was a huge success with an even greater turnout than expected of approximately 80-90 people. Now the association is working on the week long celebration from Saturday, July 31 – Saturday, August 7. What are needed are volunteers, committees and ideas.

A motion was made to allow the association to raise funds for the fireworks which would be displayed during the week long celebration. The cost for a decent display was quoted at between \$5,000 – 7,000 but the executive committee would shoot for around a \$4,000 show. Some of the executive committee members previously attended the Town Budget Meeting to ask the Town Council for funds of \$2,500.00 in order to get this program going. The music festival director that night told the Town Budget Committee that the music festival would be willing to donate \$1,000 of unused funds and therefore, the Budget Committee only had to put forth \$1,500. After being voted on, the Town Council was gracious in awarding our association the \$1,500 needed. This item will be in warrant at the Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 10 at the Wagner School and would be beneficial for members to attend to show support. After further discussion it was unanimously voted to accept the motion to raise the remaining funds needed for the fireworks.

Members were reminded that one of the fund raisers is to purchase a 33 star flag and that the goal is to have these line Main Street this summer. There are three choices for purchase a flag. Option No. 1 is to simply purchase a flag for \$10, Option No. 2 is to purchase both a flag and flag pole for \$25.00 (also included is a free 50 star flag), and Option No. 3 is to purchase an "In Memory Of" flag for \$15. This flag would be hung on a pole on Main Street in memory of a loved one (not necessarily a resident) and that person would also supply us with a photo and short bio of the loved one which will be placed on the Town's website. We also would ask that the flag pole be decorated for the town's parade on July 31st.

Members asked where the fireworks were going to take place. Bernie stated that it was an item still being worked out but that there were several options. Joe Brooks stated that a group he was involved with had to move people from one festival location to another site in order to see the fireworks and normally people don't care to be

moved around. Bernie stated that the group is working with different individuals including the firemarshall about specifics. He noted the person conducting the fireworks would be responsible for obtaining the permit.

There was a discussion that the flags are good because it is getting people to discuss the summer celebration.

Bernie stated elections for the executive committee will be in June. Therefore, he has assigned a nominating committee made up of Town Manager, Phil Pitula, and Joe Brooks. Anyone wishing to be nominated should contact either one. At the May meeting Phil and Joe will report on who the candidates will be and that all positions are up for election. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the June meeting.

Joe told us at the June 8th voting day, the state will have a ballot to determine if a bill should be vetoed that was previously passed both the State House and State Senate which increases the base services that must collect a sales tax and hopefully reduce the income tax base. With the association's blessing, he would like to invite both Representative John Piotti D-Unity and Representative Mike Thibodeau R-Winterport for an educational forum to discuss this issue. Originally this bill was supposed to go into effect in June but is being delayed in order to be voted on by the public. If passed, it will take effect in January. The association decided to do this and hold this forum on the regularly scheduled meeting date in May. It was then asked if the Victorian Grant Civic Center was available in order to accommodate a possibly larger crowd. Debbie Peet said she would find out. It was also decided that Bernie would m.c. the event and we should serve refreshments such as coffee and cookies. Joe will take care of the advertisement and will place ads in the newspapers and let the t.v. stations know. As usual, all business and residents are welcome.

Plans for the farmer's market were discussed. Hopefully this will begin sometime in May after an email is sent out asking first the local vendors if they would be interested. After May 1st other area vendors will be invited. This is being planned to take place at the town's municipal parking lot located next to the Winterport Commercial House, 114 Main Street. Deb Newman stated that we have the blessing of the town manager to do this but that we would need to write a letter to the town council to ask for their approval. It was undecided at what dollar amount we would charge per space. Hours that are being thought of are 7 a.m. - 2p.m.

Plans for a haunted house fund raiser were then talked about. The executive committee had previously asked Louie at My Fork Restaurant if he would allow us to use his place for a small group to spend the night at this "haunted" site. The committee has his blessing and now needs to choose a date. The cost is \$25.00 per person and would be limited to around 10 people. Before we decide on a date, Deb Newman is going to be contacting the Bangor Ghost Hunters to see if they would be interested in joining this event.

Bernie stated that Phil Higgins (Tammy's husband) is putting together organizations that would like to participate in the town's parade in July. It will begin at the Smith School and end at the Town Office. Also, that same day will be the Mile Long Yard Sale being sponsored by the library.

On Sunday, August 1st the Union Meeting House will be sponsoring a non-denominational service followed afterwards by a town bar-b-que. Laurel offered to help put together the service which was quickly accepted. It was noted that the time to start would probably be around 10:30 a.m. Bernie stated there was a very good possibility that we could get the food for the bar-b-que donated 100%. There will not be a set fee but we will be asking for donations. There is also a possibility of getting entertainment.

Deb mentioned that there was a desire to do a Winterport talent night on Thursday, August 5th at the Wagner School. Plans are currently being put together.

Bernie said the Postmaster will be making a special commemorative postmark in honor of Winterport's birthday.

Someone suggested the Winterport Winery may want to do something such as a special label.

Bernie stated canisters will be placed at local businesses to ask for donations for the fireworks and they are being made by the boy scouts. The girl scouts will be getting involved by doing face painting at the music festival.

Regarding the music festival, Bernie said there have been lots of suggestions of things to do for young kids but we need to come up with ideas for the older teens.

About the younger kids, Ann said she had found a company to rent a bounce house from for \$135 – 150.00 for the day.

Other ideas being thought about is a dunk tank, a fun run, special limited edition t-shirts, re-enactment at the drag strip, a pot luck supper, and a naval ship to visit the town.

Bernie said he is working on a booklet outlining the town's week long events. He suggested we could sell ads for the program to raise money and also be a great keepsake. But with all these things we still need volunteers to help out with it all. We also need suggestions about what to do during that week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Winterport Stage is putting on "Jenny's House of Joy" April 16 – 18 and April 23 – 25.

Business of the Month is the PlayDate Daycare.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12th, 6:00 p.m. at the Victorian Grant Civic Center.